

And The Winner Is.....actually we have two finalists, Peg L. and Sue W. ***Congratulations Wimin, The Checks Are In The Mail!!*** Open Arms staff would like to thank everyone who participated in the masthead contest. Sue W.'s masthead was chosen for the newly designed subscription blanks.

OHIO

How would you like to spend a warm summer day with over 4000 womyn? Shop in over 60 craftwomyn's booths, and listen to womyns music being performed all day long. All of this is available for only \$25.00!!

Sounds like fun!! Welcome to the Ohio Womyn's Festival, sponsored by the Columbus Lesbian Business Association.

Nancy and I attended this event and was amazed by the number of womyn. We also attended a few of the workshops. It was great being surrounded by powerful womyn's energy. I would recommend this to all my friends and community. The drive to Columbus is 5-6 hours from South Bend, but well worth it.

Columbus has a wonderful gay/lesbian community with many bookstores, coffee houses, bars, restaurants, and newspapers. So mark your date book for next year- - Sept. 6, 1997

Laura and Nancy

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse has found a safer, cleaner location in a more lesbian friendly neighborhood. Our new home is at 1650 W. Foster Avenue, on the floor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, in Andersonville, Illinois. We are just three blocks from Women & Children First, Woman Wild and Ann Sathers. We now open at 7:30p.m. instead of 8:30p.m. Come be a part of our 22nd season. We look forward to seeing you at MMCH's new home.

IGY MICHIANA

IGY Michiana is a volunteer organization dedicated to serving gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered youth under 21 years old.

An offshoot of IGY (Indianapolis Youth Group) which was started in Indy in the mid 80's by a gay couple, IGY Michiana has been in existence for about 5 years.

The group consists of 20-30 adult volunteers who develop policy, oversee organizational activities and work with the youth.

Weekly meetings are held in South Bend each Tuesday from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Meeting locations are kept in confidence and given to youths who contact IGY Michiana.

If you know of a youth who could benefit from this organization or would like to volunteer to help, please call our voice mail 219-679-2094 or call Tina at 219-534-8484 or 219-534-8462.

IGY Michiana is sponsoring an educational forum featuring Prof. Gilbert Herdt of the Univ. of Chicago, author of *Children of Horizons* on Fri. Oct. 18, 1996. The forum starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at approximately 3:30 p.m. The forum will be held at the St. Joseph County Library 304 S. Main, South Bend, In. There is a suggested \$10.00 donation for this event which includes a box lunch. For

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OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the Nov. newsletter is Oct. 11th. Submissions received after Oct. 11th may not be published in the Nov. newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms*, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m. For information 271-0338

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1612

Mishawaka, IN 46544



Lavender Rhythm Dance

Saturday, Nov. 2, 1996

Pickwick Place

219 N. 4th St., Niles

8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

\$7.00 admission at the door

Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

Holistic Creative Salon

Sunday, October 27, 1996

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

415 Michigan Ave., Berrien Springs, MI

Art enthusiasts and participants welcome!

For info, call Viv at 616-473-6150

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze (219)-272-3477

Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

Joy (219)-259-0906

Advertising: Kaye & Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

THIRD FRIDAY OUT



Hayride!

Friday, October 25, 1996

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

\$4.00 per person

Call Sherrill and/or Lori by Tuesday, Oct. 22nd for reservations at 684-6913.

All suggestions of future places would be appreciated.

UP AND COMING EVENTS



Olivia Cruises

October, 1996

Sonora Bay: Club Med Resort

February, 1997

Tahiti Cruise

March, 1997

Copper Mtn, Colorado

April, 1997

Mexican Carribean

July, 1997

Greek Isles/Turkey

October, 1997

Huatulco, Mexico

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

The Gay and Lesbian Youth festival and March on Washington, October 11-13th. For info call: 1-800-347-TEEN.

Pride Days in Indy (Sept. 29-Oct. 5)

Friday, Oct. 4: Concert

Saturday, Oct. 5: Pride Fair '96

Pride Dance

For info, call: 317-767-5573



THE SHAMEFUL TRUTH

by Lee Lynch

I never thought I'd be the kind of person who would pay money to look at pigs. Yet every year, in the same week that throngs of lesbians celebrate at the Michigan Women's Music Festival, Lover and I visit our County Fair.

I've never been to Michigan, but I've been to the Fair at least a half dozen times. Surely there must be something wrong with me to stay here with those adorable suckling piglets when I could be frolicking with a multitude of bare-breasted, body-painted, hand-holding women.

The shameful truth is that I'm a homebody. Oh, I've heard the stories of enlightenment through sisterhood and spiritual recharging and mass menstruation. I've been at other festivals for the proud construction of stages and the strutting of security patrols and the cheerful mingling on interminable scrambled tofu lines and the midnight howling as Alix sings.

In the northwest I've chopped my share of onions and picked up my tons of trash. At Bloomington I've done the workshops and attended the candlelight 12-step meetings. I've walked the miles from tent to dining hall and I've tried to sleep through nights reverberating with drums. I've endured gnat invasions in New England and pitched my tent in mud. I've watched for wild fires at Yosemite.

I've blocked country roads on ticket lines where every driver wondered whether she was creating more pollution by repeatedly turning her car on or by letting it run. I've been shouted at by local boys with itchy trigger fingers. I've sobbed with Festi Stress Syndrome. I've left for home with complaints for souvenirs as well as a year's supply of must-have t-shirts I wouldn't dare flaunt. I've read the festi-flaming letters in Lesbian Connection with feelings of validation as well as annoyance.

But tomorrow night Lover and I will hitch up the ol' Subaru and mosey on over to the County Fair. With any luck the feature will be the Big Wheel, the monster car that thrills audiences by crushing a line of vehicles as long as one waiting to get into a small women's festival. Not that we'll be in that audience. The midway clears for the Big Wheel and we'll be practically alone in the garish neon glow of ferris wheel and Tilt-a-Whirl. We'll tempt ourselves with silly games of chance and wish we weren't too health conscious to eat cotton candy.

While lesbian comedienues tickle the crowd at Michigan we'll admire Lover's co-worker's third prize string beans, and Joanie's candidate for Great Pumpkin. Instead of avoiding the body-piercing demonstration we'll wander the craft building to ogle intricate needlework and lust after racks of glorious quilts. While amazon night stage stars tune their guitars we'll meander through the art show, disagreeing with the judges' choices and marveling at Hazel's watercolor. Although we won't spend a cent at lesbian craft booths, it's likely the Fair won't empty our pockets either. Well - - I do have to replace that five-buck straw hat I picked up a few years ago which now looks like a 4-H goat thought it was dinner.

I guess I'm just a little old fashioned. It's neat to watch the square dancers although I know what would happen if Lover put on a flouncy gingham square dance dress, I a string tie, and we tried to join them. It's easier to be a vegetarian at a women's festival, but being around well-treated horses and bunny rabbits has its good moments. Maybe it's growing up in Queens that makes County Fairs just a little bit exotic. Maybe it's the American in me. Maybe it's the need for a balance - - steeped in lesbian culture as I am through my work - - a balance among all the cultures that I claim for my own.

Or maybe it's just the new crop of adorable piglets that draw me back year after year.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1996

Lee Lynch and Akia Woods are editors of *Off the Rag*. *Lesbians Writing on Menopause*, due out this fall from Victoria publishers. Lee Lynch is the author of ten books and lives in Oregon. Her column "The Amazon Trail" appears in a dozen papers across the country.

This is a "thank you" to Lee Lynch for "The Invisible Lesbian", (July 1996). It really hit the nail on the head. I especially liked the last four sentences. JEAN

"The invisible lesbian may have no tattoos, no causes, no gay community. She may not even have a lover. But she's loved a woman somewhere, some time. She's a lesbian."



COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends

P.O.Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number.

Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID

Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!**

54... Hi, I am a fun SWGF, age 27, looking for other singles to build friendship. I have had most of my close friends move away, and I would like to build my circle of friends. I'm looking for non-substance using friends. I enjoy conversation, movies, athletics, the beach, bicycling and the list goes on. If you would like to make a new friend, please respond.



THE BEST WAY TO CHEER YOURSELF UP IS
TO TRY TO CHEER SOMEBODY ELSE UP.

St. Joe Valley N O W Lesbian Committee
Each month The Lesbian Committee surveys 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/ gay friendly. We then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, available to local lesbian/ gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/gay organizations.

This month we polled local **Emergency Departments** to find out about their sensitivity toward and support of lesbians and gay men. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply.

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your employees was a lesbian or gay, would you retain them in the same position?

Yes to all three: Elkhart General

Hospital, 600 East Blvd.,

Elkhart

St. Marys Hospital,

2515 E. Jefferson,

South Bend



No Reply:

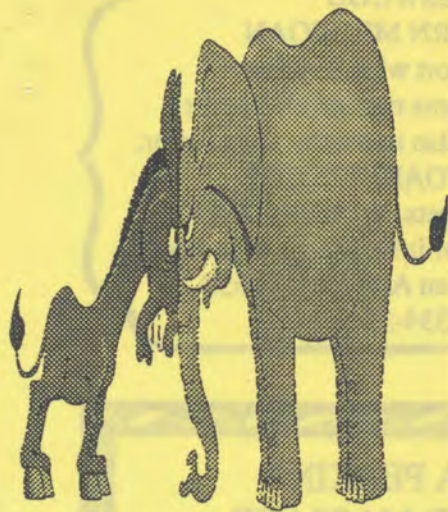
Lakeland Medical Center, Niles

Med Point's 3 locations

Memorial Hospital

St. Joe-Mishawaka

St. Joe Medical Center



MONDAY OCT. 7

is the deadline for registering to vote. Play a role in determining the candidates who will be going to congress. Democracy is only as healthy as the level of citizen participation..... Women are among the most sought after voters in American politics. Women comprise 51% of the population and about 53% of all voters. This is the kind of potential political clout that no politician can ignore. This muscle forces all parties to be mindful of their concerns. About 60% of eligible women voters reportedly voted in every presidential election from 1980 through 1992. In nonpresidential elections the women's voting record dropped to under 45%. We have to do better than that if we want our issues (health care, education, day care, abortion, economic concerns, and Medicare protection) to become front and center political issues. **VOTING IS MORE THAN JUST A CIVIC DUTY. YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE** but unless you are registered you cannot vote. Registration is not difficult. All Bureau of Motor Vehicles branches and all public libraries have forms. Most county, city and township offices also have the necessary forms.

LAVENDER RHYTHM wishes to thank the 128 womyn who attended the August 24th dance. We would also like to applaud Dee from Dee-Lite D.J. Service for the wonderful music selection. Dee will be performing at our next dance on Nov. 2nd. It was wonderful to see so many new faces and a lot of old friends. Hope everyone can make it to the next dance.

ATTENTION COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

If you would be willing to provide shelter and board for lesbians in urgent need please send me your name, address and/or phone number.

Also, committee heads of programs and events are urgently seeking volunteers to help in many capacities. Their current volunteers are being overworked. If you can spare even a couple of hours a month it would be appreciated, as JFK said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

These are **your** events and programs, please show your appreciation and support. They also need some monetary donations. We've lost our local concerts and monthly potluck dinners, already! By becoming an active participant you will meet more friends and enjoy watching your contribution bring pleasure to others. Please show them **YOU CARE!**

Love,

Egeria

If you would like to talk to Egeria, you may write to her at the following:

Egeria

P.O. Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(You will remain anonymous.)

What a Pleasant surprise!



I didn't expect the dance to be as good as it was at the old location. I used to have such a good time and felt that all that has probably been

changed. I was wrong. I finally went to the **Lavender Rhythm Dance** and had just a super great time, which could have been made better only by having my honey with me.

Attendance was better than ever, well over a hundred wimin, even though many came in late because of attending a professional wimin's baseball game. The music, by **Dee-Lite** was just that, a delight. Maybe we could have had more snugly music, but it worked for me, since I was there without my honey.

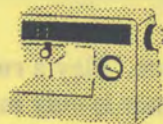
Personally, I liked the more elegant atmosphere of this new place....it sure beats a pole barn.

It was great to see so many old friends (Some looking mighty fine, I might add.) and to see so many new faces. Special thanks to Marge and Viv for filling up so much of my dance card. I was apprehensive about coming without my sweetie, but old friends sure do help out. Viv, you're the best play/fun friend a girl could ever have. "Just go girl!"

The following day, Sunday, I spent recuperating. We are talking couch potato city, but it was worth it. I had a great time and am anxiously awaiting Nov. 2nd.



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Sandy Berta - Owner



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219 266-6093



IN THE NEWS

- A new drug, **ALENDRONATE**, cleared by the FDA is expected to cut the risk of fractures and strengthen spine and hip bones. Osteoporosis is a serious bone weakening disease that mainly affects women after age 50 and causes 1.5 million fractures a year.

PET REFUGE IS ASKING EVERYONE TO COLLECT CANS FOR THE ORGANIZATION. TAKE ALUMINUM CANS (Also dog & cat food) TO THEIR BUILDING AT 2300 W. SIXTH ST., (4 blocks east of Ironwood) MISHAWAKA, IND. and place inside the fence. Phone 256-0886 for more info.....



THE BEST WAY TO APPRECIATE YOUR JOB IS TO IMAGINE YOURSELF WITHOUT IT.

DUNESWOOD
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ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.



MICHIANA MOMAZONS

Momazons is a support group for lesbians desiring children through alternative insemination and/or adoptions and with children from marriages. We meet on a monthly basis. If you are thinking about motherhood, trying to get pregnant or adopt, or already are a lesbian mother, you may be interested in participating in our group. We provide support, information sharing, resource options and great storytelling about our individual experiences as we pursue motherhood. Contact Momazons of Michiana P.O.Box 1002, Niles, Michigan 49120



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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone Number _____

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P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, Ind. 46546
*Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to
the Michiana lesbian community.*



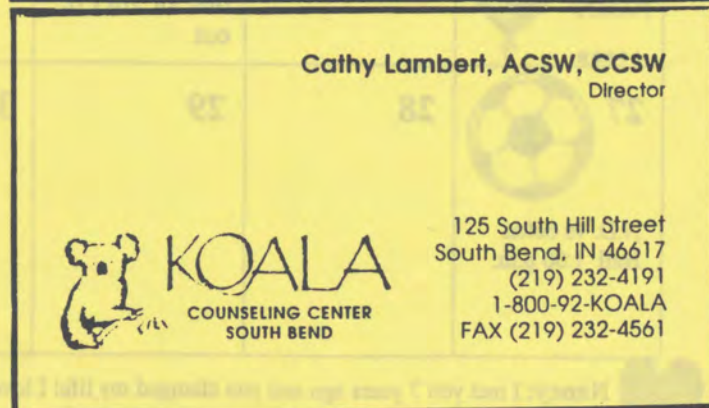
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October

1996

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1  N.D. vs Ball St. 7:00 p.m.	2 N.O.W. Meeting 7:00p.m. St. Joe Co. Library	3	4  N.D. vs George- town 7:00 p.m.	5 PRIDE FAIR '96 & DANCE "INDY"
6  N.D. vs Vil- lanova 2 p.m.	7  Happy Birthday to N. McFarland	8  SUE P.'s 39th	9	10	11  N.D. vs Provi- dence 7:00 p.m.	12
13  N.D. vs B.C. 2 p.m. OPEN ARMS 6:30	14	15	16	17	18 EDUCATIONAL FORUM..... IGY Michiana 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m. St. Joseph Co. Public Library, South Bend 219-679-2094	19 Mountain Moving Coffeehouse "Justin & Joyce" 7:30 p.m. Andersonville, Il. (312-477-8362)
20  N.D. vs Rutgers 1p.m. LAURA & NANCY  *****	21	22 Reservations due for 3rd Fri. out	23	24	25  N.D. vs W.Virginia 7:30 HAYRIDE	26 Mountain Moving Coffeehouse "Loving Ourselves Fiercely": An Evening of Poetry by Womyn of Color (312-477-8362)
27  N.D. vs Seton Hall 1:00 p.m.	28	29	30	31  HALLOWEEN		

Nancy: I met you 7 years ago and you changed my life! I love you more with every day that goes by. Happy 7th Anniversary.....Laura
Laura: You Are My Sun Rise. I love you, Honey. Happy 7th. Looking forward to Each and Every day I share with you. Love...Nancy

